



# SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

**YOU ARE** your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers about learning in the classroom and how to support that learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

## FIRST GRADE

### What to expect:

In first grade, children become more independent as their reading skills improve and they are able to focus for longer periods of time. At this stage, they are ready to learn about citizenship, economics, geography and history. They are interested in everyday tasks like cooking and taking photos and in dressing up in career-related uniforms or like people in their community and from history. First-graders ask many "what if?" questions but also need structured activities.

This information is a snapshot of learning in first-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Identify the main purpose of government and its rules and laws, including the idea of consequences when a law or rule is broken.
- Explain the need for money, how money is earned, how money and credit are used to meet needs and wants and the costs and benefits of spending and saving.
- Compare the physical features of urban and rural communities and identify the directions north, south, east and west.
- Understand the importance of people and places from history.
- Begin to understand the sequencing of events in time order.

### What to do at home:

- Read a story with your child and have him or her retell or act out the story using the correct sequence of events.
- Use the directions east, west, north and south in familiar places. For example: "Turn west or go to the south entrance."
- Discuss family rules and consequences.
- Start a savings account and monitor increases or decreases in the account.
- Locate the seven continents and five oceans on a map or globe.
- Ask your child to describe features of urban and rural areas when in those locations.



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## Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What are you interested in knowing more about?
- What else does that make you think of?
- Where do you think we can learn more about these things?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

## Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- Who did you play with today? What did you play?
- What was your hardest rule to follow today? Why was it hard?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw or showed today?

## Fostering Comprehension

Children who are on their way to becoming independent readers need time to read alone and with others. Families should take time to talk about books, magazines and other types of print with young readers. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what he or she is reading.

### BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- Why did you pick this book?

### DURING READING

- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?

### AFTER READING

- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What did you learn from the book?
- Does it remind you of any other books you have read?

Join the conversation!

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